

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS STATE 145687

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SUBJECT: TRANSPOLAR COMMEMORATIVE FLIGHT

REF: A) STATE 141211 B) MOSCOW 8333

1. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE ON WEST COAST ACTIVITIES OF
COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION: ON JUNE 18 AFTER WELCOMING
CEREMONIES AT SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
BOEING CORP HOSTED SOVIETS AT DINNER AT WASHINGTON PLAZA
HOTEL IN SEATTLE. ON JUNE 19 BOEING HOSTED SOVIETS AT
SEVERAL OF ITS FACILITIES, INCLUDING 747 PLANT AT
EVERETT, WASHINGTON, AND SOVIETS VISITED VANCOUVER,
WASHINGTON, WHICH IS SITE OF MONUMENT AND MEMORIAL PARK.
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HOSTED SOVIETS AT DINNER ON 19TH AT
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QUAY INN, VANCOUVER.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE:

A TRANSPOLAR FLIGHT COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES DURING JUNE 18-25, 1975 UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE VANCOUVER TRANSPOLAR FLIGHT

COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE, A GROUP OF PRIVATE US CITIZENS.

THE COMMEMORATION HONORS THREE SOVIET AVIATORS WHO ACCOMPLISHED THE FIRST NON-STOP TRANSPOLAR FLIGHT, FLYING FROM MOSCOW TO VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON (WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN OREGON AND WASHINGTON STATE) IN JUNE OF 1937. DURING THE HISTORIC FLIGHT, THE SOVIET AVIATORS TRAVELLED 5,288 MILES NON-STOP DURING 63 HOURS IN A PLANE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE BY THE SOVIET AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER ACADEMICIAN TUPOLEV. V.P. CHKALOV SERVED AS COMMAND PILOT; G.F. BAYDUKOV SERVED AS CO-PILOT; AND A.V. BELYAKOV SERVED AS NAVIGATOR. BAYDUKOV AND BELYAKOV WILL ATTEND THE CELEBRATION AS GUESTS OF HONOR. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SON OF V.P. CHKALOV, WHO WILL REPRESENT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH MANY YEARS AGO

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT APPROVED A SPECIAL SOVIET IL-62 FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW TO SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IN A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL 1937 FLIGHT. THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT WILL LAND AT SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 PM, WASHINGTON TIME (WASHINGTON, D.C.), ON JUNE 18. ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE COMMEMORATIVE EVENT, HEADED BY THE TWO SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL FLIGHT.

A THREE-MAN US AIR FORCE ESCORT CREW IS ABOARD THE PLANE.

ON JUNE 20 THERE WILL BE A FORMAL DEDICATION OF THE TRANSPOLAR FLIGHT MONUMENT AT VANCOUVER, CONSTRUCTED BY LOCAL CITIZENS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANS TO ATTEND, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNORS OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON. LATER, THE SOVIET AVIATORS WILL VISIT SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON, D.C. (JUNE 22-25). THE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SEND MR. SOL POLANSKY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOVIET AFFAIRS, TO THE DEDICATION.

THE DEPARTMENT VIEWS THE TRANSPOLAR FLIGHT COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION AS ESSENTIALLY A PRIVATE MATTER INITIATED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON, PARTICULARLY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES IN VANCOUVER, SEATTLE, AND

PORTLAND ARE BEING ORGANIZED BY THE COMMITTEE.

3. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN DELIVERED ADDRESS AT MONUMENT
DEDICATION CEREMONY JUNE 20. SOL POLANSKY, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR EUR/SOV, REPRESENTED DEPT AT CEREMONY. KISSINGER

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